



*“Blessed are the Merciful, for They Shall Receive Mercy”*

*Matthew 5:7*

In the musical “Les Miserables” a freed convict visits the home of a priest who takes pity on him. In the night he steals from the priest. When arrested the priest, instead of pressing charges, in an act of mercy gives him two silver candlesticks and says, “You forgot I gave these to you as well. Release him.” How would I respond in that moment? Do people see me as a person of mercy? Do I view mercy as a weakness or a strength?

**Key Verse: “Blessed are the Merciful, for They Shall Receive Mercy” (Matthew 5:7).**

Describe mercy in your own words.

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As we continue in the progression of the beatitudes, it seems they get harder. Mercy is not an attribute we celebrate in a “get even” culture. Scripture defines Biblical mercy as, “Kindness, good will towards the suffering and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them. It is compassion towards those in need”

Read *Mark 6:34-37* and *Matthew 9:11-13*. How do you see Jesus showing mercy in these two moments? How would you have responded?

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God’s mercy is demonstrated throughout scripture from Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Sodom and Gomorrah to Israel out of Egypt.

Read *Luke 10:25-37*. Why does Jesus use this story to teach about mercy? What attributes of mercy are demonstrated in this section?

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How would you fill in the following blanks?

Mercy \_\_\_\_\_ the distress of others  
Mercy \_\_\_\_\_ with compassion  
Mercy \_\_\_\_\_ with actions  
Mercy \_\_\_\_\_ barriers

God balances mercy with \_\_\_\_\_ (*Micah 6:8*)

Acts of mercy start with a heart of mercy. Read *Psalms 51:1,2*. Where does David acknowledge mercy starts?

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*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3, ESV)*

God seeing my brokenness, my separation from himself, moved by love, compassion, kindness and justice sent Jesus to offer to me, his enemy, a way home.

Mercy is action, but action that comes from a life touched and changed by God’s mercy in my life.

This week

- Have I received God’s mercy through Jesus?
- To whom would God have me share and show his mercy to this week?